



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

For Release January 17, 1990

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**FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS OF CAREER
EMPLOYEES TO LEAD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

The appointments of two career employees to top positions in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Research and Development Program have been announced by John F. Turner, Director of the Interior Department agency.

Dr. John D. Buffington has been named Director for Research and Development, succeeding Richard N. Smith, who recently became Deputy Director of the Service. Suzanne Mayer will replace Buffington as Deputy for Research and Development.

"Doug Buffington and Suzanne Mayer both have strong professional backgrounds in management and in wildlife biology," said Turner. "Since research is the common base for almost every Service activity, their wide-ranging experience will be invaluable as the agency continues its pursuit of information on our changing environment and its effects on fish and wildlife species and their habitats."

Buffington has held the post of Deputy in Research since 1982 and was responsible for the planning and internal management of the Service's nationwide research efforts. Prior to that time, Buffington was the Service's Chief of the Office of Biological Services. He received a Ph.D. in ecology from the

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University of Illinois, Urbana. Buffington is a member of the Ecological Society of America, and has held several offices in that professional society.

Mayer has served most recently as acting Special Assistant for Contaminants to the Director of the Service. She also has held numerous other positions within the Service, including Deputy Assistant Director for Enhancement and Assistant Regional Director for Wildlife Resources in the Service's Northeast Region, headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts. She has a master's degree in wildlife management from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, and is active in several professional associations, including the American Fisheries Society.

The research and development organization has 1,000 employees at 13 major research centers with 89 field stations throughout the Nation. Forty cooperative research units are located at 38 universities in 36 states. Research activities range from recovery of endangered species such as the Puerto Rican parrot to understanding the population fluctuations of much more abundant species such as the mallard. Fisheries research includes assessing stocks of recreational fish in the Great Lakes with a fleet of five research vessels. In addition, the Service's research leadership in the roles of diseases and contaminants on the fish and wildlife resource has received international recognition.